

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

OMB-01 /071 W

----- 126363

R 031035Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2850

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 6134

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, BG, IN

SUBJECT: BDG ASKS FOR MEETING WITH GOI ON BORDER TROUBLES

1. ACCORDING TO RADIO BANGLADESH, BDG SENT A NOTE ON DECEMBER 1 TO INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION HERE ASKING FOR AN "URGENT" MEETING BETWEEN HEADS OF BDR AND BSF TO DISCUSS BORDER INCURSIONS AND SECURITY. NO RESPONSE HAS YET BEEN REPORTED FROM INDIA.

2. COMMENT: ALLEGED INDIAN AIDED AND ABETTED INCURSIONS HAVE BEEN MORE PROMINENTLY REPORTED IN PRESS HERE IN PAST THREE OR FOUR WEEKS AND THESE HAVE BEEN CITED AS ONE REASON FOR POSTPONEMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. ZIA'S POLICY ADDRESS (BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY) CONTAINED POINTED REFERENCE TO INDIAN ACTIONS ON BORDER AND TO "MISCREANTS" OPERATING IN BANGLADESH FROM INDIAN SANCTUARIES. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT SKIRMISHES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE ARE CONTINUING AND PROBABLY INCREASING IN TEMPO AND THAT THE BANGLADESH ARMY AND BORDER GUARD FORCES ARE TAKING CASUALTIES. INDIAN ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER DAS HERE ACKNOWLEDGED TO AMBASSADOR THAT NOTE HAD BEEN RECEIVED BUT SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED A LESS "FORMAL" MEANS OF COMMUNICATION. HE DID NOT INDICATE

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WHAT KIND OF RESPONSE HE EXPECTED TO RECEIVE FROM HIS

GOVERNMENT.

3. AT LUNCHEON DECEMBER 3, DAS AND MEMBER OF HIS STAFF
COMMENTED TO DCM AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT INDIANS WERE
DISTURBED BY THE TIMING OF THIS NOTE JUST PRIOR TO OPENING
OF FARAKKA MINISTERIAL LEVEL DISCUSSIONS ON DECEMBER 6.
THEY SPECULATED THAT NOTE AND ITS RAPID PUBLICATION ON
RADIO WILL CREATE A POOR CLIMATE FOR FARAKKA MEETINGS. WE
AGREE.
MASTERS

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NNN

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